LITERATURE.

Are the Romanized Irish a Menace to the United States?

MR. FROUDE'S CASSANDRA SHRIEK

"The Question Will Have To Be Fought Out with Bullets Instead of Ballots,"

HAS PROTESTANTISM FAILED?

The striking article in the present number of the Froude, and is entitled "Romanism and the Irish Race in the United States." We will not attempt to criticise this article, but merely give such extracts rom it as will inform our readers of its flat-footed continued in the next number.

. "The forces which produce the most remark-effects in this world," he remarks, "work unseen and unthought of till the time comes for their operation to manifest itself." He refers to the fields lie bare and barren while the seed is swelling in the soil, and the forest trees that stand naked while the sap is rising in the trunk. "The phenomena of human life," he argues, "are the result of causes similarly and secretly active."

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"THE WOMAN OF THE SEVEN HILLS."

America is the land of wonders. From 40,000,000 Enfopeans thrown into a vast virgin continent, with the arts and sciences, the accumulated knowledge and experience of all antecedent time, we may naturafly look for surprises. There, unconstrained by traditions and superstitions, new ideas can organize themselves, and that under such conditions phenomena should rise which had never been seen before is no more than what reason would have expected. What no one would or could have expected is that in America, of all countries, a creed which in the old World a contury ago was universally supposed to be worn out and done with, should have been precisely the one which has taken root there most firmly and is growing with the most anazing rapidity. A prophet, who had foretold at the time of the Declaration of Independence that within a century the Roman Catholics would be the largest single religious community in the United States, would have deserved a place in a lunatic asylum, so absurd such an anticipation would have

reliow countrymen had done, was probable enough. That their religion would survive the change was expected by no one. Their own clergy dreaded the effect upon them of contact with American liberty.

ABSORBING "RAGGED" PAT.

The Americans themselves thought that they could absorb and assimilate these ignorant millions of ragged wretches as easily as a shoal of sprats are swallowed and digested by a whale. "How long does it take." I once asked a distinguished gentleman st New York. "to make an Irishman into an American?" "How long?" he said; "h'm! well, about haif an hour." This answer, unfortunately, was more epigrammatic than true. He wont on to explain that they would be scattered over a vast extent of country, where their priests could not follow them; a man could not remain a Roman Catholic to any purpose without priest, sacrament or chapel. If the parents continued, for their own lifetime, to pray to the Virgin and the saints, the American schoolmaster would take care to enlighten their children.

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In this as in some other points the fine confidence of the Americans in the effect of their institutions has been disappointed. The Irish peasant has surfered so long for his religion that it is in the granules of his blood. Roman Catholicism, which grew sick and stagnant in power and prosperity, has in Ireland been braced into vigor by calamity. Like the mythological monster it has been in contact with the hard soil of fact and has gathered fresh life from it. With an energy infinitely creditable to them, when they reached the New World the Irishclergy and people set themselves to meet their new circumstances. There was money in pienty. The old sixpence-a-day wages of Iroland was turned into as many shillings, and out of the shillings the Irish boys and girls parted cheerfully with as many as were needed for a faith which was a second nature to them. Thousands, perhaps tens of thousands, were lost at first in the huge cities of the enormous continent, but the Church soon overtook its straying sheep. It watched over their marriages—the Irish in America marry wholly among themselves and within their own creed. It kept its hold on the children and furnished them with antidotes to correct the poison of the secular schools. The lapses from the faith, once relatively large, have now wholly ceased, and after thirty years the Roman Catholic body is the largest, strongest and wealthiest in the Union; its members are the most perfectly organized and the most completely obedient to their spiritual chiefs. The immigration from Ireland has almost ceased. It has been checked in part by the rise of wages at home; other causes must be at work also, which are not understood; for the population of the island, once so extremely prolific, does not tend any more to an increase at home, and either children are no longer born there in the same proportion, or the drift is directed into the English towns and colonies, to carry on

But the Irish in America are now independent of additions from without. There are already six millions of them. They preserve the abstinence from sexual vice which distinguishes them so honorably at home, and this is favorable to large families. If they go en growing as they have grown for the last twenty years there will be twelve millions at the end of the century.

A WEIGHTY ELEMENT.

The Irish, whom Dean swift regarded merely as hewers of wood and drawers of water, are now, says Mr. Froude, "virtually masters of their own country; they turn the elections in the great English cities; they are a weighty element in the English colonies; while in the New World they have expanded into a nation, separate in religion, as little likely to merge in the old race of republican Americans as the parent stock at home is likely to assimilate with the British, though grafted in upon the American constitution, to bear its own fruit there for good or evil."

UNCOMENIAL WITH INFURLICANISM.

"The Irish nationality," continues Mr. Froude, "like the Jewish, is bound up with its religion, and stands or falls with it. Had the Irish who crossed the Atlantic merged, as they were expected to do, in American society, they would have strengthened the old iteling of enmity to the mother country, and Irish disaffection at home would have looked for encouragement and help to the United States, as in 1798 it looked to France, and in the sixteenth contury to Spain. The Roman Catholic religion happily prevented a fusion which would have been so dangerous. If hot incompatible with republican institutions it is uncongenial them. The Irish race the other side of the Atlantic remains as separate from the Anglo-Saxon as it is at home, and, instead of the Americans being infected with Irish ill will toward Great Britain they have themselves an Irish problem of their own which is becoming seriously perplexing. It seems hard to say that a man is a worse citizen because he is earnest in his

bodies is in proportion to their mass, and a community of seven millions with a single heart and purpose works irresistibly upon floating units which want force to make an orbit for themselves. That an educated American Protestant should, at this time of day, run his head into the sand and call himself a Catholic is sufficiently absurd; but the ridiculous has its tragic side, and, however assured we may feel of the ultimate result, no one can say what may happen meanwhile.

"The principles of liberty," says an anonymous author, 'may forbid that the Roman Catholics shall be refused the same privileges which are allowed to others;' but he says:—Neither liberty, equality nor justice requires that Roman Catholicism shall be permitted to pursue its insidious methods of attack unchallenged.' It is one thing to allow a church, as dangerous and powerful as the Church of Rome, to sow the seeds of dissolution and destruction without doing something to check the 'evil in its stages of incipiency.' Doing something! But what is the something which is to be done? A hint is dropped that 'a debased and irresponsible suffrage' may have to do with the mischief. The Roman Catholic peasantry, who have flowed over into America, are poor, ignorant creatures, who care nothing for the constitution, whose interests, so far as they have any, are in Ireland and in their creed, and who vote as their priests direct them. Why should such vices be allowed to exercise a preponderating influence in the American nation? But the thought is not followed out. Universal sufrage' just now is the American sovereign. It is surrounded with the sacred awe which belongs to imperial majesty, and even to breathe a word against it is treason. The remedy has still to be found, and the writer can but prolong and reterste the note of aiarm.

An impending culsus.

AN IMPENDING CRISIS.

the writer can but prolong and reiterate the note of aiarm.

An impending chisis.

"The Americans are thoroughgoing when they are roused. The civil was showed what they would do if their country or their principles were really in danger, and, if the progress of Romanism creates difficulties with which the constitution cannot deal, they will not sacrifice realities to scruples of form. A Falk law in the last extremity may not be impossible, if all cise fails to check the growth of a religion which strikes at the foundations of the State. If Romanism becomes atrong enough to command a majority at any important local centre the crisis will arrive, because the constitution finists on the equality of all creeds before the law, and a conscientious Catholic knows no laws save those which the Church has sanctioned.

"The dirst principle of the Republic is that the majority of the whole country shall rule. If the Church of Rome can really convert a finishing to be set aside or the Church will be within its right in ordering matters as it pleases. We know very little of the conditions of intellectual energy. In the past history of mankind it has been intermittent. Periods of activity and progress have alternated with periods of rest, as if the mind was like the soil, which requires a respite of stagmation to recover from an exhausting crop. It is possible, it is even likely, that the appetite for change which has characterized the last century may be followed by a wave of spiritual and political conservatism, that science will pause for a while in its discoveries and that our new knowledge may be allowed time to shape itself into a form with some humanity in it. Even then, however, it is hard to believe that conservatism anywhere in modern society can take the form of Romanism. Before Romanism c n become dominant the question will have to be fought out with bullets instead of which balloting papers; and though the zeal of the converts is hot enough to build have risen among our countins in the United States—that among th

the heirs of all the ages in the foremest lies of time, intelligent persons can be found who are really atraid of what may lie before them—is at least remarkable and gives us a kind of melancholy satisfaction. The Americans, too, are but mortals after all, subject to the same diseases which afflict the worn-out races of the Old World, and they may draw closer to us in the common trial."

THE EVOLUTION OF HUMANITY. Mr. Froude here passes on to assert that the fire of Protestantism is paling, while that of Catholicism

Roman communion.
THE ENGLISH PROSELYTES.

Among the men of the middle classes the movement has not gone far. They are too busy for speculation. There are few infidels among them, and therefore few Romanists. The conversions in England have been chiefly among peers, women and clergy; and among them, perhaps, they would have been less heard of, and there might have been no conversion at all had not political causes co-operated with the intellectual; and thus we come round again to the Irish question, with which our article began.

Mr. Thomas Hardy will write the serial story for the next volume of "Good Words," beginning in

most largely represented. There is a critical article on the French impressionist painters and on the relative value of home and foreign instruction for

M. Masseras, whose chapters of Mexican history Maximilian were printed in the HERALD some ished by Charpentier, of Paris, under the title "Un

Noire," published in the November Harper, was

Sadleir's "School History of the United States distinctively Catholic. The author answers this by complaining that "the part enacted by Catholics that the Catholic marched shoulder to shoulder with the Protestant and the Free Thinker in every its preservation. This is fair enough, and is done without a trace of sectarian bitterness. The little book has a number of colored maps neatly executed,

COLLEGIATE COMPETITIONS.

ANNUAL EXAMINATIONS OF THE INTERCOLLE-GIATE LITERARY ASSOCIATION - GREEK, LATIN, MATHEMATICS AND MENTAL SCIENCE.

Quis confluxus hodie
Academicorum?

The annual competitive examinations of the Intercollegiate Literary Association will begin this morning at nine o'clock at the University of the City of New York. Princeton, Williams, Wesleyan, North-western and Madison universities; Rutgers, the University of the City of New York, the College of the City of New York and the University of Pennsylvania will enter the contest. The subjects of examination will be Greek, Latin, mathematics and mental science. The examination in Greek will cover these selections:—"The Etectra" of Sopho-cles, "The Apology and Crito" of Plato, analysis of verb forms, with a general account of the origin and development of the suffixes which mark the various relations of mood, tense, number and person, and Greek prose composition, with accents. A knowledge of the scanning of Sophocles—both the samble of the dialogue and the choral—will be expected as well as of the subject matter and external form of the play. In the Sophocles and Plato, familiarity with the word-forms and construction is required. The examiners will be Professor A. Harkness, Professor H. Drisier and Professor J. B. Sewall. Each college is entitled to one representative. Competitors in Latin must be prepared for examination on the first twenty-five of the "Selected letters of Cicero," "The Trinummus" of Plautus and Latin composition, and to tracelate into English at sight a short passage from one of

into English at sight a short passage from one of the historians. Professor Charles Short, Professor C. D. Morris and Professor W. Gordon McCabe will be the examiners. One representative is invited from each college.

MATHEMATICS.

The examination is mathematics will embrace analytical geometry and calculus, and will be conducted by Professor S. Newcomb, of the National Observatory, and Professor P. S. Michie, of West Point. Each college is entitled to one representative. The text book in which candidates in mental science will be examined will be Professor Edward Caird's "Critical Account of the Philosophy of Kant." President Noah Porter, Professor A. Alexander and Professor A. T. Ormond have been chosen examiners. Each college may send one representative.

The contest in oratory is act down for January S, at the Academy of Music, and at that time the names of the successful essayists will also be announced, as well as those of the winning competitors in the examinations. Every contestant in the examinations, essay writing or oratory, is asked to sond to the tribunal of the association a statement of all the studies pursued by him in accordance with his college curriculum, the number of hours per week given to each study, the degree for which he is studying or has studied and the year of his graduation. Colonel T. Wentworth Higginson, chairman of the Board of Judges on Essays, has selected as subjects for essay writing: "The Chinese Question" and "The Comparative Influence of Carlyle and Tennyson." Each essay must bear a cipher or netitious name, which must also be indersed on a sealed envelope containing the suthor's pame and accompanying the essay. The name of the college, also, from which the collegian halis must be written upon the envelope. The length of each essay is strictly limited to 6,000 words. The association is entitled to a manuscript copy of each prize essay; but the essay will be at the author's disposal should he wish to print it. Eson college is entitled to two representatives.

NEGLECTED STREETS.

Street Cleaning Department in half a dozen down-town wards, east and west. The rain of the day bee yesterday had the effect of dissolving the heaps of mud that in a great many atreets were for severa the sweeping has to be done over again. Then when and when rain is and residents say it has been frequently left therefor three and four days. If the dirt cart followed

Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Seventh, Ninth and Thirteenth wards, and while he found numerous trapbleck, that were in a fair condition, the hajor-ity were a represent to a city like this that spends almost \$1,000,000 a year for street cleaning. Frankfort street was in an unsightly

combunation of as many amells as the famous seventy of Cologas. A woman with an uncommonly contented expression of face sat on the stoop and in reply to the reporter's question, "When were the sweepers around here?" answered, "Divil a know I from the work of the party nice not lon't care, an' if they can stand it I can. Sure, what do they mind the likes of us, whether the sthreet is clane or not, so long as the lazy blagards isn't made to do their business." That's a purty nice nosegay (pointing to the garbage pile). Well, now, that wouldn't be lett long on a sidewalk in Fifth avener, where the quality lives; divil a bit of it; but we don't fret for A Nos. 211, 245, 292 and 297, in the asim estreet, the reporter observed puddles of water, of a green color; also overflowing boxes, barrels with half the hoops gone, and battered tin pails, all containing household refuse, some of which infected the atmosphere. Clinton street was quite basable, but the adjacent one, Monroe, was dotted with many offer sive spots, especially in front of Nos. 97, 99, 112, 123, 125 and 167. Fools of stagnant water into which ashes and vegetable maiter had been thrown were frequent. The sidewalks here and there were encumbered with retuse stops the line of the cure, and the general appearance of the street indicated neglect. In Gouverneur street garbage heaps were not before Nos. 532 and 372 Madison street. From No. 29 to No. 57 Jackson street lakes of liquid mud abounded, and the playful small boy out from school was seen to aplash it impartially on both sidewalks and over the clithes of pedestrans.

From No. 16 to No. 21 on Goreck street a good deal of filth was strewed by the curb, and at Nos. 59 and 61 were two large, teening garbage boxer that appeared as if they had not been emptied for a week. "When were those boxes cleaned out?" was asked of Jacob Stalh, the portly owner of nearby beginning the street the week of the curb, and the street limits when there is liftly sweet of the reporter as was woman opposite No. 9, with a street

METEORS!

Professor Proctor Predicts a Star Shower About November 27.

ACROSS A COMET'S PATH.

The Divided and Dissipated Comet of Biela.

Professor Richard A. Proctor furnishes a paper in the current number of the English magazine Bel-gravia entitled "Expected Metsoric Display," from

retreat in 1852. How Biele's comet came actually to be divided into two distinct bodies, and later to be so far dissipated as to be no longer visible, even in the most powerful telescopies and under the most favorable circumstances, will probably be understood when we know the nature of those processes of repulsion who had been cometed tails. For our present purpose it is only necessary to observe that these processes of repulsion do most obviously carry away parts of the substance of a comet's head to enormous distances, and that in some way Biele's comet was divided, oven as it were under the eyes of astronomers, into two distinct comets; for we thus learn to recognize the further distintegration of the comet as part of a process undoubtedly commenced in 1846 and undoubtedly competent to effect the dissipation of the comet's substance. As the comet was searched for in vain in 1866 in the region which unquestionably it would have traversed had it remained unchanged, there can be no reason for doubting that it had thus been thoroughly dissipated and disintegrated. If anything could have made this more certain it would have been the circumstance that in 1872, also, the comet was searched for in vain.

Its track acmoss the traker's take.

If the comet had been like most of its fellows astronomers must have given up all idea of obtaining further information respecting it. But in one important respect it differed from them. It is one of the few known comets whose paths cross, or at least pass very close to, the track of the earth. Already in 1832 attention had been called to this circumstance. Indeed, fears had been excited among those unfamiliar with astronomical relations by the announcement that the comet would cross the earth reached that point of her path. "We escaped that time," Sir John Horschel wrote in 1896. "Had a meeting taken place, from what we know of comets, it is probable that no harm would have known agent deal about the encounter, though it remains altogether probable that no harm sould have known

particular meteor stream the earth is passing through

particular motoor stream the earth is passing through at a certain time.

THE RADIANT POINT.

The radiant point which at present distinguishes one meteor system from another, even though both meteor systems may show falling stars on one and the same night or at one and the same night or at one and the records of star showers. That criterion, it need thardly be said, is the position of what is called the radiant point of the star showers, the point from which all the intetor tracks on the aky seem to tend. The reader must not fall into the mistake of supposing that every meteor track absolutely extends from the so-called radiant. On the contrary, it may truly be said that not one such track does or can extend from that point. But each tends from the point in the sense that, if the course pursued by the meteor be supposed to be extended backward in a straight line (or, more correctly speaking, in a great circle of the heavenly sphere), the line would pass through the radiant point. The expression is used in the same general sense, and has, in fact, the same significance as the statement usually made about parallel lines and their vanishing point in porspective. Lines which are really parallel are so drawn in prespective that they all tend from one and the same point, but they do not extend from it. An artist might indeed draw them all in pencil from that point, but he would afterward rub out parts of the pencil lines, leaving the rest all tending from the vanishing point, but none of them extending actually income.

solf—though all three were travelling in such courses that they might be called attendants of that body. There for the time the history of Blai's comet has closed. Nothing more has been seen of it, either as a comet or as a meteor flight, though scattered meteors travelling in its train were seen toward the end of November, 1877, and more would probably have been seen at the same part of last year if the skies then nad not been overclouded in nearly all European countries.

A FINE DISPLAY PROBABLE.

The next passage of the earth athwart the track of the comet is the first since that of November 27, 1872, during which a meteor shower could be expected to occur. The comet crossed the earth's track, or passed very near to it, early in April last; sand though the interval is considerably longer between then and the end of November than ciapsed between the comet's passage in 1872 and the display of that year, yet it is most probable that many meteoric attendants of the comet will be seen on some nights (or perhaps on several nights) between November 25 and December 1, and quite possible that a very fine shower may be seen. The meteors will be well worth looking for in any case, since, if they are carefully observed and counted hour by hour, astronomers will probably obtain some further insight into the nature of the processes which lead to the dissipation of a comet and caune its path to be occupied over a range of many millions of miles by scattered meteoric attendants. To others than such numbers as to produce an exceedingly beautiful display.

DETERMINED TO DIE.

FAILING TO DROWN HIMSELF A WOULD-BE SUI-CIDE ENDEAVORS TO DASH HIS BRAINS OUT.

Shortly after the Fulton ferryboat Farragut left the ferry slip on this side of the river, at eleven o'clock yesterday forenoon, a tall, muscular looking man stepped over the forward chains and sprang into the river. Several passengers and a deck hand gave the alarm and the pilot rong the bell to stop the engine. The man sank, but arose to the surface almost beneath the wheel of the boat as it became stationary. A life preserver was thrown to him, but he refused to take it. A ladder was then lowered over the side and a deck h nd descended and grasped him by the coat collar. With the assistance of a boathook and a rope the would-be suicide was drawn aboard. While he was being hauled out of the water he appeared to repent of his rash purpose, as he exclaimed:—"Keep hold of me. Don't let me go." He was taken into the gentlemen's cabin, and there in his pockets were found two bricks and several stones. When the boat rosched Brooklyn a policoman took charge of the man and conducted him to the York street station house. The policoman observed that he was under the influence of liquior and was in a state of excitement bordering upon delirium tremens. When asked whether he was sired of life he replied with an oat, "I don't see why they can't let a man drown when he wants to." At the station house he gave his name as Cornelins Daly. He said he was thirty-seven years of age and was a printer by trade. In his pocket was found a memorandum and member's card of Typographical Union No. 6.

Daly was taken to the lower corridor, where the heated cells are located, and was wrapped in blankets. An officer was told to watch him. After a time he jumped up and ran up into the yard, where he secured his dripping of other. which he proceeded to put on. Captain Crafts then observing that the man had a wild and insane look, caused him to be put in a cell. The door had searedly been closed upon him when he graw desperate and beat his head furiously against the walls of the cell and the grated door. He was promptly taken out and sent to the City Hospital. The patient admitted that he had been drinking hard for the past three weeks, and was pronounced to be suffering from delitium tremens. He was reticent and sullen, but intimated that he had some family troubles. stop the engine. The man sank, but arose to the surface almost beneath the wheel of the

PARK COMMISSIONERS.

At yesterday's meeting of the Park Commissioners a resolution suspending all the laborers and fors-men on the force of the annexed wards was adopted. To-day and hereafter the laborers on the Contral and city parks will be given full days' work, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment having ap-propriated \$7,000 for that purpose, at the request of the Park Commissioners.